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## NEWS AND NOTES

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### THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF INDIANA TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

When the Indiana Association of Teachers of English was convened for the opening session on November 8, in Indianapolis, a hundred members from all sections of the state were present. The colleges, normal schools, high and elementary schools were all well represented. This made possible a consideration of the questions presented in vertical section, from the college to the primary school, a view not often taken, but still very suggestive. The discussion and debate in the round tables, under this arrangement, proved to be very enthusiastic and stimulating.

The program, centered around the drama, was opened by Mr. R. W. Jenkins, librarian of Indiana University, who talked upon "How the Play Is Built Up." For his illustrative matter he used Shaw's *Widowers' Houses*. The speaker's witty and keen analysis of Shaw's method was made clear by a careful synthesis of the play out of the apparently incongruous elements chosen by the playwright.

The second address was made by Mr. F. Tarkington Baker, dramatic critic of the *Indianapolis News*, who spoke on "The Function of Dramatic Criticism." He made very clear the truth that the public shapes the drama, that because the crowd is always inclined to yield itself to its emotions, there is a place for the critic. He must feel it his duty to be an alert and sympathetic observer of all that constitutes life. He must school himself to feel as deeply as his neighbor, the casual theatergoer, but to preserve at the same time his intellectual equilibrium. He must feel and think. Such a course will enable the critic to discover what the artist is and to communicate the discovery to others.

These two addresses furnished the teachers with a new impetus toward reading and study for their own enjoyment, and a new viewpoint from which to view and judge the modern theater.

The more professional aspects of the general topic furnished the basis for two spirited round tables on "Teaching the Drama in Schools" and on "Dramatization as Composition." This latter topic was made effective by illustrating impromptu dramatization by a few pupils under the direction of Miss Alice O'Hair of Indianapolis.

At the members' dinner seventy-five sat down, and listened with much pleasure to an address by Dr. W. D. Howe of Indiana University on "English Politics," being an account of observations made during a recent sojourn at Oxford University.

Committees on conditions of teaching and on the results of English teaching reported progress and were continued.

Officers were elected as follows: President, N. W. Barnes, DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind.; Vice-president, Miss Adelaide S. Baylor, State Superintendent's office, Indianapolis; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Odessa Zeiss, Wabash, Ind.; Editor, W. N. Otto, Shortridge High School, Indianapolis; Member of Executive Committee, Miss Elizabeth Williams, Richmond, Ind.; Research Committee: E. H. K. McComb, Indianapolis; Superintendent A. O. Neal, Kokomo, Ind.; Principal C. B. McLinn, New Albany, Ind.; Social Committee: C. Augusta Mering, Indianapolis; W. N. McMillen, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Ella Laughlin, Columbus, Ind.; Press Committee: W. L. Murray, Hammond, Ind.; C. M. Curry, Terre Haute, Ind.; Louise Thrall, Evansville, Ind.

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#### THE ENGLISH CONFERENCE OF THE WISCONSIN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The English Conference of the Wisconsin State Teachers' Association held two meetings, November 8 and 9, in Milwaukee. The first meeting was the larger, it being the regular meeting of the Conference. Mr. James F. Hosic, of Chicago Teachers College, addressed an audience of something over three hundred, on the subject: "The Relation of the High-School Course in English to the Student's Life after School." The discussion was opened by Mr. Swiggett, a newspaper man of Milwaukee, and was participated in by several teachers. The talk by Mr. Hosic and the trend of the discussion evinced a growing belief that we English teachers must not attempt too much, and that if we can send out students who can say what they have to say in clean, straight sentences, and who are able and inclined to read with fair intelligence and discrimination, we shall have done enough; more, alas, than we are doing now.

The following morning, for the first time in its history, the Conference held a Round Table, and it proved an unqualified success. There were short papers on "Student Correction of Themes" and "The Possibility of Greater Uniformity in High-School English." Both papers gave rise to spirited discussion, and the Conference voted to take up the

second subject next year, with a view to publishing a pamphlet setting forth the views of the Conference on matters of punctuation, and other moot questions of usage. Those present also went on record as unanimously opposing any tendency on the part of the N. E. A.'s Committee on Grammatical Terminology further to Latinize the terminology of English grammar.

The Conference applied for association membership in the National Council of Teachers of English.

C. R. ROUNDS, *Chairman*

MILWAUKEE, WIS.  
November 16, 1912

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#### KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

The meeting of the Kansas Association of Teachers of English, held at Topeka, November 7 and 8, was the largest assemblage of the kind ever seen in the state, filling the First Presbyterian Church beyond its seating capacity. Two sessions were held: that of Thursday to discuss the attitude of the high schools toward the grade teaching of English, and that of Friday to present the chief difficulties that grade teachers find in teaching the English language. At both sessions Mr. Percival Chubb of St. Louis was the principal speaker; and his topics were the correlation of subjects and schools, and oral training in both reading and composition.

All parts of the program proved to be of exceptional interest and value; and as was intended, it served to indicate certain specific directions in which the activities of the Association should find employment at once. The central question of both sessions, What action is most pressing for the aid of grade teachers and the strengthening of grade teaching of English? seemed to receive an indirect answer from the fact that all teachers alike complain of the lack of sentence-sense in pupils after they have completed their formal course in grammar; this of course indicating something fundamentally lacking in that formal course, and suggesting that special effort be made by the proper committee to trace the difficulty to its source and find a remedy. It was hinted that a possible remedy might be found by abolishing formal grammar from the grades altogether, or reserving it for the higher grades, and teaching the subject incidentally in connection with reading and composition work till pupils are familiar with the practical application of elementary principles before they ever see a grammar or suspect that they are studying the parts of speech and the nature and structure

of the sentence. The Association Committee on Elementary School English has assumed this investigation of the grade teaching of language as its particular duty for the immediate future, under the direction of Superintendent John F. Bender of Arkansas City.

The high-school committee, chairman Miss Lela F. Douthart, of Kansas City, Kan., reported progress under the direction of the National Council Committee on English Training of High-School Graduates, and was continued. Two new committees were created: one on Oral English, the chairman to be named by the Executive Committee; and one to make collection of Kansas folklore through the schools, chairman Miss Mary Dougherty of Kansas City, Kan.

Some slight changes were made in the form of the constitution of the Association as formulated in March, and with these changes, the constitution was finally adopted. The chief amendment was made to secure the continuity of policies and work by electing a majority of the officers each year from the Executive Committee of the preceding year.

The officers elected were: President, Superintendent L. A. Lowther of Emporia; Editor, Professor J. W. Searson of Manhattan; First Vice-president, Miss Jessie Mustard of Mankato; Second Vice-president, Professor E. M. Hopkins of Lawrence. The Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Charlotte M. Leavitt of Topeka, serves for three years from November, 1911. As delegates to the National Council were elected Miss Lela F. Douthart, Kansas City, and Mrs. Mary S. Compton, Hutchinson; Professor J. W. Searson and Professor E. M. Hopkins to serve as alternates.

One hundred new members were enrolled in the Association, more than half of whom also subscribed for the *English Journal*. The total membership of the Association, notwithstanding the unprecedentedly large attendance at its sessions and the equally marked interest in its program and its work, is still below two hundred; and a large addition is necessary before the Association can make progress with its most important plans, especially those relating to grade English. Kansas readers of this report can aid the work of the Association most vitally and effectively by securing new members, and by sending names to the secretary-treasurer at Washburn College, Topeka. Blanks will be furnished on request.

E. M. HOPKINS, *President*

CHARLOTTE M. LEAVITT, *Secretary-Treasurer*

## IN NORTH DAKOTA

The North Dakota Association of English Teachers was organized on October 23, at Grand Forks at the time of the annual meeting of the State Education Association. The attendance at this first meeting was large and representative, and the Association starts its work with great enthusiasm. A Committee on the Course of Study in the High School was appointed, to report at the next meeting. It is proposed to have a thorough discussion of the needs of the boys and girls in this state, and of the best ways of meeting these needs. The Association voted to affiliate at once with the National Council. It also applied for and secured recognition as a section of the State Education Association. As officers for the ensuing year the following were elected: President, Professor A. E. Minard, of the Agricultural College at Fargo; Vice-president, Miss Amy Evans of Minto; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Edna Twamley of Grand Forks; Executive Committee, these officers with Miss Bertha Dailey of Hillsboro, and Professor Vernon P. Squires of the State University.

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## PRELIMINARY ORGANIZATION IN OKLAHOMA

Twenty-five teachers of English in the colleges and high schools of Oklahoma met in Oklahoma City, November 16, to effect the temporary organization of a state council, or association, and to prepare for the first annual meeting, which will be held in the same city during the Christmas holidays.

The officers of the temporary organization are: President, T. H. Brewer, head of the Department of English, University of Oklahoma, Norman; Secretary, F. C. Oakes, Professor of English, Central State Normal, Edmond.

A committee was appointed to draft a constitution for the new organization before the December meeting. The members of this committee are: Professor Barrett, head of the department, Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater; Professor Sloat, head of the department, Northwestern Normal, Alva; and Miss Mayall, head of the department, Oklahoma City High School.

The program for the meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the meeting of the State Teachers' Association, December 26-28, will be arranged by the following committee: Professor Brewer, Professor Oakes, and Mr. Edgar A. Rippey, head of the department, University Preparatory School, Tonkawa.

The teachers present were enthusiastically in favor of every movement looking toward the improvement of the conditions under which English is taught in all of the schools of the state from the lowest to the highest.

It is likely that the state will be divided into several districts for the purpose of quarterly, or semiannual, meetings.

THEODORE H. BREWER

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

November 17, 1912

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The autumn meeting of the Public Speaking Conference of Ohio Colleges was held at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. The address by President Robert I. Fulton, of Wesleyan University, was on "What Courses Should Be Offered by a College Department of Public Speaking?" Among the topics considered were Original Public Speaking in Colleges, Interpretative Courses, College-Entrance Tests in Oral Expression, The Status of the Course in Public Speaking. The Conference voted to apply for membership in the National Council of Teachers of English.

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The English section of the Iowa State Teachers' Association, at the recent meeting in Des Moines, took steps to form an Iowa English Council in affiliation with the National Society. The Committee on Organization is composed of Professor B. Roland Lewis of Ellsworth College, chairman; Miss Grace Lambert of Cedar Falls, and Miss Ellen Geyer of the State University of Iowa.

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## BOOK NOTICES

[Mention under this head does not preclude review elsewhere.]

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*De la méthode littéraire.* By J. BEZARD. Paris: Librairie Vuibert, 1911. Pp. 731.

Journal d'un professeur dans une classe de première. A full and specific account of the French method of teaching literature and composition in the *Lycée*.

*The Teaching of English.* By C. LINKLATER THOMSON. London: Horace Marshall & Son, 1912. Pp. 38. 6d. net.

Two lectures, one on English in elementary schools and the other on English in secondary schools, with suggestive lists.

*Die Sprache des Kindes.* By ARTHUR WRESCHNER. Zürich: Art Institut Orell Füssli. Pp. 43.

One of the most recent summaries of the psychology of language development in children.